



# NEWS



## News Headlines 7/06/2018

- Thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks seized before and during Fourth of July holiday
- Vehicle fire quickly doused by firefighters in Hesperia
- Crash shuts down Rancho Road in Hesperia
- San Bernardino County to Receive New Fire Fighting Resources

## Thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks seized before and during Fourth of July holiday

Paola Baker, Daily Press

Posted: July 5, 2018, 5:08 p.m.



San Bernardino County Fire Department investigators seized over 31,000 pounds of illegal fireworks throughout the county, shown above. Officials took on an aggressive effort to stamp out illegal fireworks during the Fourth of July holiday this year. [Photo courtesy of San Bernardino County Fire]

As residents took in Fourth of July festivities held all over the High Desert, authorities had their eyes on a more elusive prize — stamping out illegal fireworks.

Despite county and city policies prohibiting fireworks throughout the county — only the cities of Adelanto and Barstow allow “safe and sane” fireworks in the High Desert — several residents took their chances anyway, with officials seizing thousands of pounds of illegal fireworks in the weeks leading up to the holiday.

The tough stance seemed to work — various agencies in the region, including **San Bernardino County Fire**, the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department, and local municipalities have reported large seizures and fines.

County Fire said they confiscated nearly 31,000 pounds of illegal fireworks “through weeks of interdiction operations conducted by a multi-agency task force” led by the department’s Fire Investigations Unit.

Investigators issued 121 citations totaling \$151,250 in fines for possession of illegal fireworks, officials said.

“San Bernardino County has a zero-tolerance policy for bringing any and all illegal fireworks into our communities,” Fire Marshal Mike Horton said.

In High Desert communities, many residents complained of the nuisance of the annual Fourth of July light and sound fest, but a quick check with authorities proved their efforts weren’t wasted.

“Up here in the county areas of Barstow, we had about the same number of illegal fireworks calls as last year,” Barstow Sheriff’s Station spokeswoman Katie Herbert said. “We only issued verbal warnings to the citizens we were able to contact and did not have to respond a second time after they learned of the fines.”

Hesperia Sheriff’s Station spokeswoman Jackie Chambers also said “the amount of fireworks calls” were similar to the year before. Together with fire investigators, Hesperia officials wrote “numerous citations” on the Fourth of July, Chambers said.

The city of Victorville took the bull by the horns when it came to fireworks this holiday season, creating a task force dedicated to enforcing the city's bans on all fireworks. The task force had already confiscated 130 pounds of fireworks and responded to several calls in the days before the holiday, city officials said.

Once seized, the illegal fireworks are picked up by the State Fire Marshal's office and are safely destroyed. Officials said investigators will continue to issue citations for the illegal use, possession, or storage of fireworks. Property owners may be cited if they allow fireworks to be possessed, stored, or used on their property.

Residents can report illegal fireworks to local authorities or to the We-Tip Hotline at 1-800-47-ARSON or WeTip.com.

<http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20180705/thousands-of-pounds-of-illegal-fireworks-seized-before-and-during-fourth-of-july-holiday>

---

## **Vehicle fire quickly doused by firefighters in Hesperia**

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 5, 2018



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) **San Bernardino County Fire** Fighters were able to quickly respond and get a handle on a vehicle fire that occurred here Thursday.

It was reported at 11:54 a.m. at the Oak Hill Road on-ramp entering the southbound 15 Freeway.

When firefighters and the California Highway Patrol arrived on scene, they located a 2018 Nissan Versa fully engulfed in heavy smoke and flames.

The male driver driver was the only occupant and was able to escape without injuries.

Traffic in the immediate area temporarily slowed down as onlookers passed the fire, which smoke was visible from miles away.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation at this time.

<https://www.vvng.com/vehicle-fire-quickly-doused-by-firefighters-in-hesperia/>

## Crash shuts down Rancho Road in Hesperia

Staff Writer, VVNG

Posted: July 5, 2018



HESPERIA, Calif. (VVNG.com) A head-on crash in Hesperia temporarily shut down a stretch of Rancho Road near Mesa Linda Street Thursday night.

It happened at about 9:04 p.m. and involved two vehicles.

Two people with major injuries were transported to Loma Linda University Medical Center, as well as a third person with minor injuries, according to **San Bernardino County Fire** Battalion Chief Bill Mahon.

No further information available at this time. Check back for updates.

<https://www.vvng.com/crash-shuts-down-rancho-road-in-hesperia/>

---

## San Bernardino County to Receive New Fire Fighting Resources

Galen Dobbins, Grand Terrace City News

Posted: July 5, 2018



With the rise in fires, the San Bernardino County Fire Department was awarded money to purchase new fire engines.

Earlier this month, it was announced that the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department was being awarded \$450,000 to purchase a new Type III Wildland Fire Engine. The decision to award the county fire department extra money to purchase the fire engine came from budget negotiations between Assembly member Eloise Reyes (D-San Bernardino), the State Assembly and Governor Brown's administration.

The San Bernardino County Fire District, Serving the Cities of San Bernardino and Grand Terrace, was in need to replace their aging Brush Engines. Brush Engines are first response units to San Bernardino and

Grand Terrace as well as first response units to the State Responsibility Area's (SRA) to protect life and infrastructure.

“We have seen a marked increase in the length as well as severity of our state's fire season and our fire departments and first responders need to be equipped correctly and ready to respond at a moment's notice,” said Assemblymember Reyes. “This Type III Fire Engine is one of the foundational pieces of our fire response infrastructure and ensures that our fire department can adequately respond when the need arises and that they can continue to serve the people of the 47th Assembly District.”

San Bernardino, Grand Terrace and the surrounding cities and areas of the 47th Assembly District are listed by Cal Fire as “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the LRA (Local Response Areas)”. Brush engines or Type III Engines are specialized units that have a short wheel-base and high clearance to operate in off road Areas such as the Santa Ana River, Waterman Canyon, the wildland urban interface in Grand Terrace, San Bernardino and the SRA (State Responsibility Area's). These units are also used in the states Master Mutual Aid Program.

<http://grandterrace.citynewsgroup.com/articles/san-bernardino-county-to-receive-new-fire-fighting-resources->